

COMMUNITY NEWS

2003 ZC beauty queens crowned in four categories



The Miss Zion Chapel Pageant was held March 8, 2003 at the Zion Chapel High School auditorium. The pageant was sponsored by Zion Chapel Youth Sports.

Winners were named in several categories including photographic, evening gown, interview and written communications. These winners were:

Photogenic

Junior Miss Zion Chapel: Erica Lewis; Little Miss Zion Chapel: Veronica Kidd

Evening Gown of Best Dress

Miss Zion Chapel: Ceaira Smith; Junior Miss Zion Chapel: Brandy Crawford; and Little Miss Zion Chapel: Shelly Sorrells; Future Little Miss Zion Chapel: Arielle Lowery

Interview

Miss Zion Chapel: Whitney Stephens; Junior Miss Zion Chapel: Brandy Crawford; Little Miss Zion Chapel: Veronica Kidd; Future Little Miss Zion Chapel: Sadie Grantham

Written Communications

Miss Elba: Kim McClain

Collected the Most Monetary Donations

Makenzie Wambles

Sold the Most Chances on \$100 Bill

Brittney Hill

Sold the Most Good Luck Lines

Shelly Sorrells

Congratulations to All These Young Ladies!



COOK goes "0 to 60"



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MISS ZION CHAPEL...Whitney Stephens was named 2003 Miss Zion Chapel. She is pictured with first runner up Ceaira Smith and second runner up Nicolle Paez. Kimberly McClain was named third runner up.



FUTURE LITTLE MISS ZION CHAPEL...Sadie Grantham was named 2003 Future Little Miss Zion Chapel. She is pictured with first runner up Madison Bedsole and second runner up Savannah Williamson. Named as alternates were Destinee Lowry and Madison Grissett.



JUNIOR MISS ZION CHAPEL...Brandy Crawford was named 2003 Jr. Miss Zion Chapel. She is pictured with first runner up Erica Lewis and second runner up Calista Crook.



Called to Duty and Serving Their Country

The United States is currently involved in Operation Iraqi Freedom and the War Against Terrorism; therefore, we take this opportunity to honor our service men and women who are selflessly fighting to protect our freedoms of today and tomorrow. Please join us in saluting these men and women:

Randolph Shon Willis
Ronnie Davis
Demetrius Siler
Jason Jordan
Rob Hunt
Jason Thomas
Edward Jonathan Tillis
Donnie Morris
Michael A. DeSandro
Mariam Smith
David Head Jr.

Jeremy Blenn
Bradford Ashley
Chad Chancellor
Amber Ellison Simmons
Dexter Watkins
Melody Byrd Bryant
Kerry Hardy
Timothy A. Lamore
James Kenneth "Buck" Simmons
Willie (Ray) Slawson

Help Let the Community Know Who is Serving Our Country... Call The Elba Clipper at 897-2823 and Add His/Her Name to this List!

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MONTGOMERY AL 36130-0100

Honored with
engagement
party

INSIDE
Elba FFA Quartet
places second
at district
competition

INSIDE
Local Citizens
of Tomorrow
featured

The Elba Clipper

Volume 106, Number 45

50 Cents

Elba, Alabama

Thursday, April 24, 2003

1 Section, 12 Pages Plus 2 Adv. Inserts

Elba City Schools receive good reviews from monitoring teams

by Linda Hodge, Editor

The visiting team praised the work at the elementary school and agreed that recent efforts of the staff toward SACS compliance met most of the requirements for the Title I schoolwide plan, Weeks said. "Any corrections we will enact must be complete within six months."

Superintendent Danny Weeks said the school system just completed several big reviews, and both schools received very good results. He said this has been a very busy time for everyone involved with the schools, but he is proud of the excellent job done by all to get the job done.

The SACS (Southern Association of Colleges and Schools) reviews were the first completed, and both schools received good remarks from the peer review team. Weeks said the team was especially impressed with the overall safety of the school system.

Two separate reviews handled by the state board of education office included the Federal Programs monitoring and Special Education Focused monitoring.

The focus of the federal monitoring visit is to discover and point out shortcomings in the planning and expenditure of federal dollars, Weeks said. "I am proud to say that the monitoring team found no major problems with out plans and programs."

He said that the one thing he was especially proud of included the recognition by each monitoring team of the great community support was noted for the welding program at Elba High School.

"Overall, I was very pleased about the monitoring visits," Weeks said.

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EDITORIAL

BRAINSTORMS
with Fergie Cox

We have found some interesting tidbits of information (it might not qualify as news) in recent e-mails, public relations departments, etc. This morning some hard core Democrats were spreading the alarm of the virus "SARS infects Ala. Senate". Of course what has the writer upset was the virtual shutdown of the Alabama Senate because of a turf battle which is (rightly or wrongly) is now being on the Republicans with the blessings and encouragement of Republican Governor Bob Riley. Whatever the cause or the ultimate outcome, it is a bit amusing to sit back and listen to all the other Monday morning quarterbacks who have nothing to do but creative ways to poke fun at this problem. The report ended with these precautions: Precautions to take: Common sense provides ample protection against SARS. You should avoid areas with high concentrations of Republicans and loyalists when possible, especially at peak lobbying times; be sure to avoid clothing such as Brooks Brothers suits that will attract virus; check yourself, your children and pets daily for misinformation and seek prompt injections of work ethic and common sense if symptoms appear. Check with your constituents to determine if a vaccine is appropriate for you.

But then there is the problem in Aspen Colorado. A walking mailman had hip replacement surgery a year or so ago. To help his walk back after first returning to his route he strapped a mail cart on his faithful golden retriever dog "Sydney". The animal soon became a town favorite, though the event was not a success. A now acting postal inspector told the man his dog had to go, in spite of his popularity in the community and the many times a week tourists make his picture. This is another case showing the disadvantages of big organizations. Rules are rules and exceptions just don't fit in that mold. Many people feel the spirit of the law should be enforced, not the letter of the law. What the postal inspector saw was a report about 3,000 postal carriers being bitten by dogs each year. If the resort community of Aspen had a small independent postal service, they could set their own rules and dogs like Sydney would still be making the daily rounds with the mailman and attracting new friends along the way.

It is encouraging to read that the governors of Alabama, Georgia and Florida have reached an agreement in the long running lawsuit of water usage from the rivers that flow through all three states. It is a bit unusual for the South to have fights of water, many of us grew up seeing that only in the Saturday westerns at the local theatre. However as the population and related water usage increases, there becomes a point beyond which there is not enough of the sweet stuff to go around and fights are bound to crop up. We have long argued that available water, not oil, would measure the wealth of our grandchildren's world and we are seeing that blossom already.

Elba citizens are about to really get a dose of progress with the closing of the Troy Highway for many, weeks. The levee rehab work has progressed to the point that this highway must be closed to increase the level of the levee in this area. Along with that effort there will be an increase slope of the highway for several hundred feet on each side to keep traffic flowing smoothly. It is alright to complain about this inconvenience, but please do it with a smile... like a grandparent complaining of having to attend beauty contests all over the nation as that grandmother kept winning or having to go and go and go to watch the grandson that kept winning football games from coast to coast! Let's keep it all in the proper perspective.

State Highway Department employees are busy blazing trails through the wilderness but sometimes they stop and smell the roses. Some time back while working on the new Ballard Bridge (on Alabama 34) they came upon a mother cat and her brood of baby kittens. They had to be moved because of the bridge work and some of the workers adopted the family. Now these litterbox trained "adorable" kittens are looking for a new home. If you are interested, call Kathy at the AL Department of Transportation Project Office in Elba at 897-0018. Call Monday through Friday from 7 a.m. until 4 p.m. or you may see the darlings at 756 Smith Avenue, Elba, Monday through Fridays, p.s. The cats may be forced out to make room for convicts if state finances continue in the present strain!!



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Randolph Shon Willis
Randy Davis
Demetrius Siler
Jason Jordan
Rob Hunt
Jason Thomas
Edward Jonathan Tillis
Donnie Morris
Michael A. DeSandro
Marian Smith
David Head Jr.
Jeremy Bleen
Bradford Ashley
Chad Chanceller
Amber Linton Simmons

Dexter Watkins
Melody Bryant
Kerry Bryant
Timothy A. Lammot
James Kenneth (Buck) Simmons
Christopher Bradley Bush
Anthony Shay Johnston
William Shae Farris
Michael L. Ezell
Jason P. Bowden
Marshall Lawson
Joe Fuller
Jeffrey Eldredge
Pernell Terry

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Linda Hodge - EDITOR
Ricky Mularz - SPORTS
Heddy J. Cox - BUSINESS MANAGER

SUBSCRIPTION RATES
Coffee County & Surrounding Counties - \$19 per year
6 Months - \$10, including city & state tax
Alabama Counties - \$21 per year - including tax
6 months - \$11
Outside Alabama - \$24 per year - 6 months - \$13

Join the Marrow Donor Registry

Anyone could save someone's life by joining the National Marrow Donor Program Registry. Each year, more than 30,000 children and adults are diagnosed with leukemia and other diseases for which a stem cell transplant may be the only cure. Only 30 percent of these people will find matching donors within their families.

The others will look to the National Marrow Donor Program Registry for a potential life-saving match. At any given time, 3,000 patients are searching the donor registry for a potentially life-saving stem cell donor. "Over the last decade, the registry has grown significantly, which has enabled more patients than ever before to receive transplants for life-threatening diseases," explains Stephen J. Forman, chair of the transplantation program at City of Hope Cancer Center in Los Angeles.

"In the 27 years since our first successful transplant, medical advances in this field have given thousands of people worldwide the system to determine if a vaccine is appropriate for you.

But then there is the problem in Aspen Colorado. A walking mailman had hip replacement surgery a year or so ago. To help his walk back after first returning to his route he strapped a mail cart on his faithful golden retriever dog "Sydney". The animal soon became a town favorite, though the event was not a success. A now acting postal inspector told the man his dog had to go, in spite of his popularity in the community and the many times a week tourists make his picture. This is another case showing the disadvantages of big organizations. Rules are rules and exceptions just don't fit in that mold. Many people feel the spirit of the law should be enforced, not the letter of the law. What the postal inspector saw was a report about 3,000 postal carriers being bitten by dogs each year. If the resort community of Aspen had a small independent postal service, they could set their own rules and dogs like Sydney would still be making the daily rounds with the mailman and attracting new friends along the way.

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William Shae Farris
Michael L. Ezell
Jason P. Bowden
Marshall Lawson
Joe Fuller
Jeffrey Eldredge
Pernell Terry

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CRIMESTOPPERS

@ 897-3881

TO REPORT A

CRIME

REMAIN

ANONYMOUS

BULLETIN BOARD

* ABUSING CHEMICAL SUBSTANCES THROUGH CHRISTIANITY

* A.R.M.S. addiction/recovery ministry

service group, Inc. 1000 N. Main St., Elba, AL 36323

Call 897-3970 or visit the website: www.iobaptist.com

* SOCIAL SECURITY REP

Commissioner: 1-800-772-1213

* ROTARY CLUB - Tuesday

* N. Elba First Baptist Church Fellowship Hall

* ELBA CITY COUNCIL - 2nd & 4th Monday, 4 p.m., City Hall

* WEDNESDAY NIGHTS - Tuesday

following 2nd Monday 6 p.m., City Hall

* ELBA MINISTERIAL ASSN.

Meets - 8 a.m. Elba United Methodist Church Fellowship Hall

* GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP - every Monday, 7 p.m., Elba United Methodist Church - 1000 N. Main St., Elba, AL 36323

* COFFEE COUNTY COMMUNITY ROOM - 1st Monday, 7 p.m., Legion Hall

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* COFFEE COUNTY COMMUNITY ROOM - 1st

CHURCH & AREA NEWS

Benefit Singing to be held at the Praise and Glory Worship Center in New Brockton

A benefit singing will be held at Praise and Glory Worship Center on Saturday, April 26 at 7:00 p.m. Singers will be Still Water from Mount Olive and several others. A cake auction will also be held. All proceeds will go to the church building fund. The church is located at 419 South John St. next to New Brockton High School. Everyone is invited to attend.

Victoria Baptist Church to celebrate Homecoming May 4

Homecoming will be observed at Victoria Baptist Church on Sunday, May 4. Sunday School will be at 9:45 and morning worship service at 11:00 with Bro. Ben Amlong as the guest speaker. Dinner will be served at noon.

Bro. Larry Doster will lead

Nicole Watts Jenkins to be in concert at the New Life Worship Center in Samson

Nicole Watts Jenkins will be in concert at New Life Worship Center on Friday, May 2, 2003. The concert will start at 7:00 p.m. and the church is located at 206 South Magnolia Street, Samson, Ala.

National Day of Prayer to be observed at the First Baptist Church of Samson

In conjunction with the National Day of Prayer a City-Wide Community Service for the Samson Area will be held on Thursday, May 1, 2003 at 7:00 p.m. The service will be held at the Samson First Baptist Church CDC Building. The guest speaker will be Pastor Dean Allerheiligen of Samson First Methodist Church with special music by Nicole Watts Jenkins.

Bethany Baptist Church to celebrate Homecoming Sunday, April 27

Bethany Baptist Church in New Brockton, Ala. will celebrate "Homecoming" on April 27, 2003. Bethany Music Groups will present the music at 9:00 a.m. Worship service begins at 10:00 a.m. The guest speaker will be Don Baza of Colquitt, Ga. A covered dish lunch will be served at 11:30 a.m.

National Day of Prayer to be held in New Brockton

Major Charles Cole will welcome everyone to the City Park in New Brockton for National Prayer Thursday, May 1, 2003 at 11:45 a.m. The program will open with the reading of the Presidential Proclamation. Dr. John Granger will issue the Call to Prayer followed by prayers for our Nation and Leaders, our Armed Forces, Civil Servants, Communities, Families, Youth and Schools, and a public prayer for the continued commitment to prayer. Special music will be brought by Linda Creel and Candice Simon. The program will conclude about 12:30 p.m. If rain threatens the service will be moved to the Farm Center. Prayer is essential in the lives of people of faith. Join us for prayer.

Rev. Bernard Strickland, Pastor

Sunday School.....10:00 a.m.

Morn. Worship.....11:00 a.m.

Even. Service.....6:00 p.m.

Wed. Prayer Service.....7:00 p.m.

ALBERTON BAPTIST CHURCH

Rev. Sam Toten, Pastor

Sunday School.....10:00 a.m.

Morn. Worship.....11:00 a.m.

Even. Worship.....6:00 p.m.

Wed. Prayer Service.....7:00 p.m.

BASIN BAPTIST CHURCH

Rev. Phillip Copes, Pastor

Sunday School.....10:00 a.m.

Morn. Worship.....11:00 a.m.

Tue. Bible Study.....6:00 p.m.

Even. Worship.....5:30 p.m.

Wed. Prayer Service.....5:30 p.m.

BETHEL AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Rev. Phillip Copes, Pastor

Sunday School.....10:00 a.m.

Morn. Worship.....11:00 a.m.

Even. Worship.....6:00 p.m.

Wed. Prayer Service.....6:30 p.m.

BLUFF SPRINGS BAPTIST CHURCH

Rev. Sam, Pastor

Sunday School.....10:00 a.m.

Morn. Worship.....11:00 a.m.

Even. Worship.....6:00 p.m.

Wed. Prayer Service.....6:00 p.m.

CHESTNUT GROVE METHODIST CHURCH

Rev. Charles Baxter, Pastor

Sunday School.....9:30 a.m.

2nd & 4th Sundays

Sunday School.....9:00 a.m.

1st, 3rd & 5th Sundays

Sunday School.....10:00 a.m.

2nd & 4th Sundays

CHURCH OF CHRIST

H. F. Hill, Minister

Sunday School.....10:00 a.m.

Morn. Worship.....12:00 noon

1st, 2nd, 3rd, & 4th Sundays

Sunday School.....10:00 a.m.

2nd & 4th Sundays

DAMASCUS BAPTIST CHURCH

Sunday School.....9:45 a.m.

Morn. Worship.....10:45 a.m.

Even. Worship.....6:00 p.m.

Wed. Prayer Service.....7:00 p.m.

ELBA ZION BAPTIST CHURCH

Rev. Wm. Martin, Pastor

Sunday School.....9:45 a.m.

Morn. Worship.....10:45 a.m.

Even. Worship.....6:00 p.m.

Wed. Prayer Service.....7:00 p.m.

FAIRVIEW BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor

Sunday School.....9:45 a.m.

Morn. Worship.....10:45 a.m.

Even. Worship.....6:00 p.m.

Wed. Prayer Service.....7:00 p.m.

ROUND & ABOUT WITH ERIA 897-2006

Scripture: Psalm 24:1-10

***Thinking of you, for giving me your stamp and Caldwell families, Clara Caldwell, Rev. N.L. Robinson, Lela Tyson, Bette English, Alan Belcher, Catherine Waters, Henry Waters, Jessica Pearson, Shai Yelverton, Tina Williams, Ronnie Russell and Tamequees Jones.

***17th Anniversary for Rev. J.M. Bryant, pastor of First Baptist Church, Glenwood, Ala. will be held April 27, 2003 at 2:30 p.m. The speaker will be Rev. W.L. Peterson, pastor of Greater New Zion M.B. Church in Elba.

***Bethlehem Baptist Church will hold their Annual Choir Day on April 27, 2003 at 2:30 p.m. All choirs, groups, and soloist are invited to attend.

***38th Annual Session of the Mulberry Baptist Usher, Choir, and Church Nurses Union will be held at Goshen First Baptist Church on April 26, 2003.

***Annual Women Conference 2003 will be held at Rock Head Baptist Church in Elba on April 26, 2003.

***Bethesda Baptist Church, Opp. Ala. is holding their annual youth revival April 21-25, 2003 at 7:00 p.m. nightly.

***Rocky Head Baptist Church, Elba will hold a youth revival April 27-29, 2003 at 7:00 p.m. each.

Composed by: Eria Lindsey Belcher

***A Pre-Easter dinner was served to a number of relatives and friends in the home of Myron and Maria Duncan in Elba, Ala. on April 19, 2003.

Those attending this dinner were: Brandon Kelley, Brandy, Tiffany, and Lydia, Evelyn Manning and Lynsey, Mason and Jason Guiley, Marcus Kelley, Curtis, Melinda, Ernestine, Roger Russell, and Kimberly, Wylie Brooks, Juanita, Renita, and DeNard, Roy Vignola, Connie Moody and Braxton, Winston T. Kelley, Margo and Winston T. Jr., Anthony, Kelley, Tonya Smith, Jana Kelley and Caleb, Wesley Nunn, Warren Belcher, Steven Knight, and Eria Lindsey Belcher and the host and hostess, Myron and Maria Duncan.

Below is an news release pertaining to National Minority Cancer Awareness Week, as well as two attachments—one regarding cancer facts and figures for African Americans and one regarding cancer facts and figures for Hispanics.

Thank you for your time and consideration in promoting this important issue. Please email me or give me a call if I can be of further assistance.

Some of these efforts include:

Collaborating with the National Cancer Institute to develop "Body & Soul: A Celebration of Healthy Living," designed specifically for African American churches.

Developing a four-year agreement with Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority to save lives and reduce health disparities.

Establishing the American Cancer Society Hispanic Development Center in Miami, Florida.

Enhancing the leadership skills of urban school health leaders to improve school systems' abilities to do effective health programs and address the cancer-related health disparities that exist among urban students.

Other American Cancer Society efforts include research studies on cancer issues in poor and underserved communities; education and support services through community outreach programs; multilingual information available in print, the Internet, and over the phone; and legislative advocacy for better insurance coverage of cancer screening and treatment.

For information about cancer, call toll-free anytime 1-800-ACS-2345 or visit the American Cancer Society Web site at www.cancer.org.

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SCHOOLS



Tiger Tales

Editor:
Sheena Flowers

Student Spotlight

by Mary Katherine Head

This week's Student Spotlight focuses on Ayonna Procter.

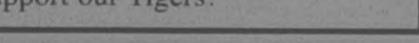
"Yonnie" is the 16-year-old daughter of Martha Procter and a junior at Elba High School. She is vice-president of the junior class, an EHS Ambassador, and a member of Senior Beta. Yonnie also plays on the Girls' Varsity Basketball team and is a member of the EHS Journalism Staff.

After high school, she plans on attending PACE University in New York where she intends to participate on the basketball team and obtain a degree in journalism.

Reminder!

The 2nd Annual Elba Tigers Lift-A-Thon will be Friday, April 25, at 7 p.m. in the EHS Gymnasium.

It is free to attend, so come on out and support our Tigers!



Congratulations to Ayonna Procter for being this week's Student Spotlight!

Elba FFA Quartet places second at district competition

by Blake Brunson

The Elba High School FFA Quartet recently took part in the South District Competition.

There were seven quartets competing in the District competition, where they are required to sing gospel songs.

Elba sang "I'll Fly Away", "God is so Good", "Sweet, Sweet Spirit", and "Just a Little Talk with Jesus".

With the piano accompaniment of Mrs. Frieda Bradshaw, Samantha Williams, Judson Vaughn, Kaleb Dyess and Jonathan Lockett brought home second place, coming only behind Enterprise.

This was the first time the EHS FFA Quartet participated in the competition since 1994. The group will be traveling to state competition June 2, 3, and 4.

The members of the quartet would like to express their appreciation to everyone who has supported them, especially their parents, who come to all the practices.

Elba FFA Quartet members include (from left): Jonathan Lockett, Judson Vaughn, Samantha Williams and Kaleb Dyess. Pictured along with the quartet is FFA advisor Jacob Davis.



SALUTE!!

Ayonna Procter

Congratulations to Ayonna Procter for being this week's Student Spotlight!

The FFA Poultry team placed fifth at the district competition.

The FFA Construction team placed seventh at district.

The FFA team placed fifth at the district competition.

Elba FFA students enjoy Jr./Sr. Prom

by Shawna Hill

It's that time of year again! This year's prom was a total success. The theme was Paradise Found. The juniors did a wonderful job of decorating. Along with the juniors, the sponsors spent several hours of using their imaginations to create one of the most perfect proms in Elba High's history. I was really amazed by the scenery. There were posters with palm trees, coconut canes, and torches that lit the walkway for the students.

To me, the prom was like a night at the Oscars. Everyone was dressed up from head to toe. The guys were handsome in

their tuxedos and their clean haircuts. As for the girls, we were dressed in our elegant dresses and showing off our new hairdos. In other words, everyone was stepping out in style. The DJ created dance mania by cranking up the night with great music. I can truly say that the juniors and sponsors did a great job and deserve a pat on the back.

Active listening should be

Character Trait

by Ayonna Procter

Hearing something and actually listening to something are two different things.

When a person listens and takes in the information at hand, he or she can learn a lot. Also, by listening intently it shows that you have interest in what the topic is. You can make a new friend by turning your mouth off and your ears on.

Smart listening too, because listening and understanding doesn't mean you have to agree. It depends upon who you listen to that determines if it's good information.

Being an active listener will get you much further than being an "active talker" and many teachers of "any school" around will agree with that.

Besides, if God wanted us to talk more than we listened then he would have given us two mouths and one ear.

Smart listening should be

Elba juniors and seniors sign Prom Promise pledge

by Jessica Lauren Hathcock

On Friday, April 11, the juniors and seniors were shown a very emotional video on the hazards of drunk and driving and how it affects your life and the lives of the others around you.

The students were instructed that they could have fun without taking the responsibilities of drinking alcohol.

Prom Promise was started by Nationwide, a group concerned with decreasing traffic injuries and fatalities.

Prom Promise is when the juniors and seniors, who are planning to attend the prom, sign a pledge to respect themselves and others by deciding not to drink alcoholic beverages and then drive.

The faculty and students have always taken this very seriously at Elba High.

In Summer Time...Submitted by Alex Benbow

by Paul Laurence Dunbar

When summer time has come and all

The world is in the magic thrall Of perfumed airs that fill each sense

To fits of drowsy indolence; When skies are deepest blue above,

And flow'r's aflush, — then most I love

To start, while early dews are damp,

And wend my way in woodland camp

Where forests rustle, tree on tree,

And sing their silent songs to me;

Where pathways meet and pathways part,

To walk with Nature heart by heart,

Till wearied out at last I lie

Where some sweet stream steals singing by

A mossy bank, where violets vi-

In color with the summer sky—

Or take my rod and line and hook

And wander' to some darkling brook,

Where all day long the willows dream.

And idly droop to kiss the stream,

And there to loll from morn till

Some lessons can change the world

Your electric system prides itself on a commitment to the environment. It's essential to the way we do business. That's why we want to pass on to our youngest members - our children.

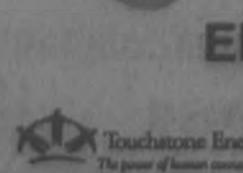
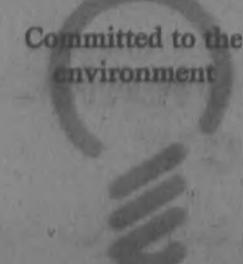
When an electric system staff member goes into a school to teach kids about electrical safety or energy conservation, we make sure that another message comes through - a message about keeping the environment healthy for the future. Together, we can keep the world a clean, healthy place for their kids, too.

As a member and owner, you and your family have the power to make a brighter future - that's your electric system difference.

ELBA WATER & ELECTRIC DEPT.

Contact: James E. Grimes

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ELBA WATER & ELECTRIC DEPT.

Contact: James E. Grimes

SPORTS

Views from... THE PRESSBOX

By Ricky Mularz, Sports Editor

Our girls have been too old to hunt Easter eggs for many years now, but I think they get just as excited hiding them for their cousins as they did looking for the eggs years ago. On Sunday afternoon they got the chance to hide eggs at a family picnic, and the joy on their faces let me know that although my girls are 20 and 14, they are still kids at heart. That is good for a dad to know!

SWINGS AND MISSES....

*** The Elba Tigers lost three games last week to see their record dip to 8-8 and were forced to settle for the runner-up spot in the area after losing twice to Straughn. The Tigers were looking for big things this season after a banner season a year ago and with a team loaded with senior. However, the Tigers have never seemed to put everything together this year and last week's three losses were just more of the same as Coach Grimes saw his team commit countless errors. Elba could still salvage something out of the season with an upset or two in the state playoffs, but nothing has come easy all season for the Tigers, and neither will wins once the playoffs get under way.

*** The Elba Lady Tigers rolled to three more wins last week to push their record to 16-2 and it looks like the Lady Tigers have a chance at going undefeated in regular season play. Both losses were in a tournament in Troy, but the Elba girls have yet to lose a regular season game and with only one week left, it just could happen. The Lady Tigers must still improve on their hitting and fielding to be considered a state title threat. However, they have proven already they can play with any team around and if they play their best anything is possible.

*** I watched the Atlanta Braves play a night or two last week and just can't get excited about the Braves and how they try to tie their stars to wins. Atlanta has a unique combination of stars and less than average players, and this year the results have been a less than stellar opening month of play. The Braves will always be a threat to win their division, but that is about it.

*** The youth softball and baseball leagues are underway and it is another busy season for all the Elba kids. Games are being played this season in Elba, Opp, Luverne, Zion Chapel, Brantley and Kinston in the various leagues to give the players more experience, and while the parents get tired, the kids are having a ball. I urge the fans to keep on cheering and let the kids know you love 'em, win or lose.

*** In closing... Easter always gives me a feeling of being reborn and having a renewed spirit, and I know that no matter what part of the holiday one likes best, it is the reason for the event that gives us hope.

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Record dips to 8-8

Tigers stumble through winless week

The Elba Tigers closed out the regular season last week and suffered three straight losses as their record for the season dipped to 8-8.

"To win in baseball a team has to hit the ball, field the ball and throw the ball," said Elba's Coach Wynn Grimes, "and last week we didn't field it or throw it well enough to win against good teams. We needed to peak before this week's playoff opener. However, we took giant steps backwards and we will have to regroup in a hurry to keep the season alive."

Following are highlights of last week's action:

STRAUGHN 10

ELBA 5

The Elba Tigers spotted Straughn an early 8-0 lead and then saw a late rally fall short in a 10-5 loss, last Monday afternoon in Straughn.

Straughn combined two hits with two walks and two errors to take a 5-0 second inning lead, and then added two hits over the next two innings to its lead to 8-0 in the fourth. The Tigers were still trailing 8-0 in the sixth, but finally woke up at the plate and scored two runs on three hits to lead to the 8-2.

A lead off single by Jason Curran ignited the Elba rally, while Marcus Henderson delivered an RBI double and Rick Smith came through with a single to drive in Henderson.

Straughn matched the Tigers' sixth inning runs in the bottom of the inning to its lead to 10-2, and then held on to post the 10-5 win.

Jason Curran had 3 hits and scored 2 runs to lead Elba at the plate, while Marcus Henderson added 2 doubles, scored 2 runs and knocked in 3 runs. Henderson was the losing pitcher as he pitched six innings and allowed 10 runs on 7 hits and 4 walks.

STRAUGHN 6

ELBA 1

The Elba Tigers saw their



Elba Tiger coaches Wynn Grimes (left) and Jetey Wise (13) talk with players between innings. The Tigers dropped three straight games last week to see their record slip to 8-8 entering this week's state playoffs.

PIKE COUNTY 7

ELBA 3

The Elba Tigers closed out a winless week on the diamond Thursday afternoon in Brundidge as they fell to the Pike County Bulldogs 7-3.

The Tigers managed only two hits in the first five innings and trailed 3-0 heading into the sixth, but combined 2 hits with a walk to score twice in the inning to cut the Pike County lead to 3-2. A two-out single by Jason Curran got the rally started, while the key hit in the inning was a two-run double by Rick Smith. Pike County combined three Elba errors with two hits in the bottom of the inning to regain command at 7-2, and held on in the seventh to post the 7-3 win.

Kyle English had 2 hits to lead Elba, while Brandon Petty added 1 hit. Petty took the loss on the mound as he allowed 5 runs, no earned runs, on 2 hits and 2 walks.

Lead Elba at the plate, while Rick Smith added a two-run double. Ralston Moore pitched 3 innings to get the loss on the mound, and allowed only 1 run on no hits, while walking 2, hitting 2 and striking out 3. Kyle English pitched the final three innings and allowed 6 runs, 2 earned runs, on 5 hits and 4 walks.

Follow the
Tigers in the
playoffs right
here each
Wednesday
with www.elba.com
Opening Game
April 23

Elba Lady Tigers tame Kinston 8-4

The Elba Lady Tigers upped their winning streak to five games last Monday afternoon with an 8-4 win over the Kinston Lady Bulldogs, in Elba.

Elba got off to a quick start in the opening inning as the Lady Tigers set down Kinston in order in the top of the first and then plated three runs on two hits in the bottom of the frame to grab an early 3-0 lead. Lucy Carlile and Michelle Carpenter opened the inning with base hits to ignite the early uprising, while two Lady Bulldogs errors and two walks helped Elba grab a 3-0 lead.

The Lady Tigers added two hits in the second inning, and again took advantage of walks and errors to plate four runs to take a commanding 7-0 lead. Lucy Carlile opened the inning with a single, while the big hit in the inning was a two-run double off the bat of Samantha Williams, Williams and Kristen Barnes both later scored on an error as Elba pulled ahead 7-0 after only two innings of play.

Samantha Williams added her second hit of the game and scored on an error to push the Elba lead to 8-0 in the top of the fourth, and carried the big 8-0.

Leanne Sutley keyed a two-run seventh inning as Kinston pulled within 8-4. However, Elba's Stephanie Barnes lead to 14 runs in opening inning and cruise to easy 16-1 win over Zion Chapel

The Elba Lady Tigers improved their record to 15-2 last Tuesday afternoon by routing the past the Zion Chapel Rebels 16-1, in Elba.

The Lady Rebels went down in order in their half of the second, but Elba was ready to add to its lead in the bottom of the second, while Kristen Barnes and the Lady Tiger batters then made the most out of their turn at the plate as they combined 7 hits with 8 walks to score 14 runs and take a commanding 14-0 lead. Leanne Sutley ripped a double and a triple in the inning and knocked in 3 runs to spark

the Lady Tigers at the plate, while Kristen Barnes, Samantha Williams, Lucy Carlile and Greta Robinson all added 1 hit and 2 runs in the wild opening inning.

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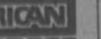
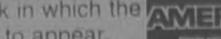
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CITIZENS OF TOMORROW



Paige, age 2, is the daughter of Will and Angie Moore of Elba.



Emilee, age 6, is the daughter of Tim and Michelle Hudson of Elba.



Christen, Aaron and Brooklyn, all age 3, are the children of Patrick and Julie Norris of Elba.



Frances Brayton, age 2 1/2, is the daughter of Clay and Amy Martin of Elba.



Christopher, age 5, is the son of Don and Terri Senn of Jack.



Victoria, age 5, is the daughter of Christie Greer of Elba and Shane Greer of Andalusia.



Hayden Disotell, age 7, is the son of Brandy Hawthorne & Eddy Disotell; **Creed Hawthorne**, age 1, is the son of Randy and Brandy Hawthorne of Elba.



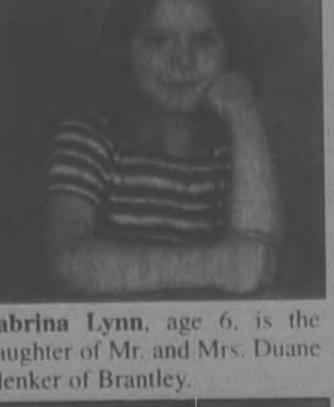
Creed Hawthorne, age 1, is the son of Randy and Brandy Hawthorne of Elba.



Meagan, age 8, and Ty, age 6, are the children of Danet Stewart of Elba.



Alonso Rodgers, age 10, Brianna, age 5, and Christopher Jr., age 3, are the children of Lawanda Echols and Christopher Echols of Elba.



Christopher, age 5, is the son of Karen Luckenbaugh of Jack.



Tanner, age 4 months, is the son of Karen Luckenbaugh of Jack.



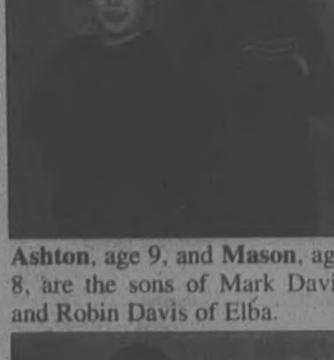
Sadie Alexis, age 5, is the daughter of Brad Grantham and Adrienne Smith of Elba.



Brock, age 14; Kevin, age 9; David, age 6, are the sons of Michael and Elizabeth Bryant of Elba.



Amber, age 6, is the daughter of Dexter & Betty Goodwin of Elba.



Morgan, age 2 1/2, is the son of Sherry Simmons and James Burch of Elba.



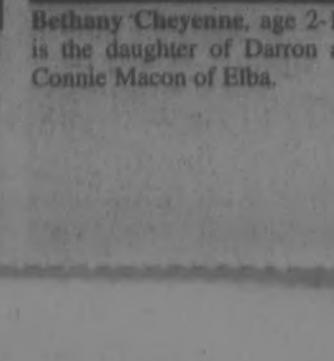
Jauan, age 14; Tierney, age 12; Kira, age 3, are the children of Rev. and Mrs. James Stark Jr. of Elba.



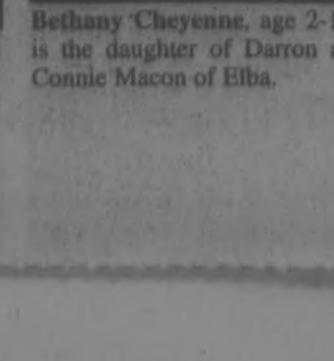
Ashton, age 9, and Mason, age 8, are the sons of Mark Davis and Robin Davis of Elba.



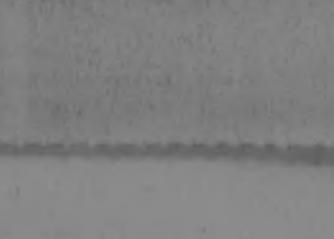
Landra, age 6 months, is the daughter of Landon and Jill Free of Elba.



Lindsey, age 9; Garrett, age 7; Rachel, age 3; and Reagan, age 1, are the children of Dennis and Nancy Smith of Elba.



Tanner, age 3, is the son of Darren and Connie Macon of Elba.



Bethany Cheyenne, age 2 1/2, is the daughter of Darren and Connie Macon of Elba.

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